DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Martandan Vaidyan, your representation covers very wide subjects and difficult problems. I doubt whether anybody is in a position to say why Vaidyans should get a grant-in-aid of Rs. 15 while a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery should start on a considerably higher pay. These are matters on which we cannot decide in terms of pure logic. There are various considerations that enter into the question. However, all that you have said will be considered in consultation with the Government's advisers on Ayurveda.

In regard to the other points you raised in the matter of education of Ezhavas and their re-awakening, these too will be looked into.

56. Maintenance of public health.

MR. CHACKO MATHEW (*Member, Municipal Council, Changanachery*) said that the condition of public health in the State was very poor. Almost every other man whom one met in the street was suffering from some disease. There was hardly a pupil who did not want spectacles. According to statistics, 96 per cent of the population were suffering from hookworm. Diseases of the heart, tuberculosis, etc. could be met with anywhere. It was high time to devise measures for combating the spread of these diseases.

The member next referred to the statistics of births and deaths which disclosed the high rate of mortality prevailing in the State. From the figures of deaths registered one could see that the average age at which deaths occurred was 60 in Travancore whereas in European countries it was 80. The rate of infant mortality was also very high.

In order to attend to public health there were several departments under the Government. In urban areas, municipal councils were entrusted with the administration of public health. But most of these councils had no funds to carry out any new schemes. So far as the several departments were concerned, they were also not quite equal to the task. The member would suggest that the Sanitary Department should be made a major department and made solely responsible for the maintenance of public health. The department might carry on propaganda work by means of distribution of pamphlets, instruction in schools, etc.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Chacko Mathew, Government are entirely at one with you in holding that the state of public health in Travancore is not at all as it should be. It is with a view to ameliorate the position in respect of public health that they are now endeavouring to make arrangements that will view the whole question comprehensively and devise methods for correcting evils which now prevail.

57. Promotion of public health with special reference to schools, hospitals, and municipalities.

DR. KOSHY PALAKUNNATHU (*Member, Nominated*) spoke of public health with reference to municipal councils, hospitals and schools. As regards municipal councils, the member said that their chief activities in relation to the administration of public health were confined to sanitation, control of the sale of foodstuffs and vaccination. But even in respect of these things, all that was possible or necessary was not being done. Practically little was also being done for the prevention of diseases like malaria, typhoid, elephantiasis, hookworm, etc. Government should put more life into the work of the municipalities in these directions.

So far as rural sanitation was concerned, the maintenance of sanitation in public markets claimed careful attention. Under the existing rules, markets were under the dual control of the Sanitary Department and the Revenue Department. This dual control should be abolished and the Sanitary Department should be made solely responsible for the sanitation of markets. The officers of the Sanitary Department should also be invested with statutory powers to enforce sanitation in rural areas. Another measure that was necessary was the institution of a publicity bureau to do propaganda work in sanitation and public health. Leaflets might be distributed by this agency and magic lantern lectures might be delivered in various places. The publicity bureau might be attached to the Trivandrum municipality and

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they might make Trivandrum the chief centre of their activities. The officers of the bureau might also visit other municipalities. Government should give a substantial grant-in-aid to the Trivandrum municipality in order to enable it to undertake this work. If it was considered that the municipality was incompetent to undertake it the Medical Department and the Sanitary Department might be combined into a Public Health Department and the work entrusted to it.

Baby week celebrations should be held in every municipality, and poor houses should be provided for the use of beggars. The proceedings for opening a tuberculosis sanitarium should be expedited.

In regard to hospitals, there should be expert doctors in the General Hospital, Trivandrum. Not only that, specialists in the treatment of diseases connected with the nose, the throat, teeth etc. should be appointed in the hospital. Central institutions on the model of the General Hospital should be opened in important towns in the State.

The establishment of a separate Women's Medical Service was an absolute necessity. Pending the establishment of this new department, qualified women doctors and nurses, of whom there were many in the State, should be appointed in the more important hospitals. The Kozhanchery hospital was one such institution. The member mentioned in passing the need of establishing an Ayurveda dispensary or hospital at Maramon.

In regard to schools, hygiene and public health should be included in the curricula of studies in training schools. The hours of instruction in primary schools should be from 7 A. M. to 10 A. M. Provision should be made for mid-day meals for poor school boys. So far as medical inspection of school boys was concerned, the present system was defective in so far as there was no special staff appointed for the purpose. A group of doctors should be specially deputed to do this work and they should be posted in the important district hospitals of the State.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Dr. Koshy Palakunnathu, the first part of your representation consists of several items relating to public health and sanitation generally. These points will all come up for consideration when, as I hope, before long, the question of improving and co-ordinating measures in this direction is taken up for consideration in consultation with others.

The point you mention in regard to school children and their hours of attendance at school will be considered in due course. I understand that the question of mid-day meals for school children has been taken up independently by persons who are engaged in education.

The possibility of appointing a woman doctor and a nurse at Kozhancheri and in other District Hospitals where they are not now appointed will also be considered.

58. Education.

MR. SANKARA PILLAI MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Member, Vaikom taluk*) said that the proposed committee for revising the present system of education should be appointed at once with the Dewan as president. No one who was now in the Education Department should sit on the committee.

As regards head masters of English schools, the member stated that all was not well with some of them. But no interest was evinced by Government in the matter. In the case of the Vaikom headmaster, for instance, Government did nothing, though there were a number of complaints against him.

The member then made the following suggestions :

1. The appointment of Inspector of English schools should be done away with. The Director himself could inspect the English schools.

2. No principal of a college should be appointed as the Director of Public Instruction.

3. Instruction up to form III should be given in the vernacular, and a public examination should be held in form III.

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